

# Introduction to the Twentieth Anniversary Commemoration Issue

Time passes more swiftly than an arrow, it seems; for it is already twenty years since St. Andrew's University was established. The Inauguration Service was conducted by Rt. Rev. Michael Hinsuke Yashiro, Presiding Bishop of the Nippon Sei Ko Kai (the Anglican Church in Japan), and was graced by the presence of the then Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Rev. Geoffrey Fisher. (The Archbishop was in Japan to attend the Centenary Service commemorating the beginning of Anglican missionary work in Japan one hundred years ago.)

St. Andrew's Boys School was founded by the Church Missionary Society nearly a hundred years ago, when Rev. C.F. Warren was the Director of the Committee of Missionaries in this area. It was started with one class of eleven boys, in a borrowed classroom at the Bishop Poole Memorial Girls School. There was no such thing as coeducation in Japan in those days, and so the government would not permit the existence of a boys school within a school for girls. Thus the boys school was forced to move to separate premises, and began its own independent existence as St. Andrew's Boys School, with its motto 'Sequimini Me'—recalling our Lord's call to St. Andrew to 'Follow me', and the Apostle's immediate response. In the succeeding decades the school developed into a Boys Junior and Senior High School, and in 1959 the University was established.

Among the many projects devised by the University to celebrate its twentieth anniversary, one is the publication of a special issue of each of the University's four academic Journals. This special issue of the Journal of Christian Studies is part of that project.

It so happened that about the time that this project was set in motion, the General Synod of the Nippon Sei Ko Kai set up the Bishop Williams

Memorial Fund. This was for commemorating the establishment of the Anglican Episcopate in this country over a hundred years ago, in the person of the first Anglican Bishop in Japan, the Rt. Rev. Channing Moore Williams. The Fund was to support two projects: first, a Lectureship, on the pattern of the Bampton or Gifford Lectures, whereby scholars of world renown would be invited to give lectures in Japan on theological and related subjects; and secondly, a scholarship for theological students in developing countries to do research abroad. This Fund is a tiny token of gratitude to Our Lord for His gracious keeping of His Church in the sight of the people of Japan. And so this year saw the first series of lectures under the terms of the Williams Memorial Lectureship, the lecturer being the Rt. Rev. Dr. Michael Ramsey, formerly Archbishop of Canterbury.

Dr. Ramsey was indeed a fitting person to give the inaugural lecture series; he is an outstanding theologian with a world-wide reputation as a scholar. He gave a series of public lectures on 'The Mission of the Christian Church in the Modern World', and he also gave some lectures and led seminars clergy and theological students. The lectures were mostly given at St. Paul's (Rikkyo) University in Tokyo, but through the medium of television some of them were transmitted to an audience which was Japan-wide.

The programme for Dr. Ramsey's visit to the Kansai included a reception and a Sunday service in Kobe, and a lecture at Poole Gakuin in Osaka. As mentioned above, it was at the original Poole School that the first class of the future St. Andrew's Institute was conducted. In this same year that St. Andrew's University is celebrating its twentieth anniversary, Poole Gakuin is celebrating its centenary. The lecture at Poole Gakuin was on the same topic as the public lecture series, which we have taken as the theme for this special issue. We are grateful to the Fund Committee, to the Committee organizing the Poole lecture and to Dr. Ramsey himself, for permission to include the lecture in this issue. It is especially appropriate that it should be included, since it is part of the commemoration projects of both Institutes.

I would like to express our thanks to all the contributors to this special issue: to Dr. Ramsey, who in the middle of a busy schedule kindly checked the transcript of his lecture; to Rev. Steven Mackie of the Department of Theology, St. Andrew's University, Scotland, who sent back his manuscript especially promptly.

We are sorry not to have included a contribution from Bishop Antonie, the Vice-Primate of the Rumanian Orthodox Church. He had agreed to write an article for this issue, but with the death of my mother and my mother-in-law within a short space of time, I failed to contact him to give him the necessary details. However I am planning to include a contribution from him in our next issue.

Finally, it is our hope and prayer that this small contribution to our University's academic studies should continue to flourish, through the support of friends and colleagues, under the guidance of Our Lord Himself.

Paul S. Toma